

Privacy Act of 1974

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Records Privacy

A proposed "Privacy Act of 1974" approved by a House committee would entitle citizens to see and correct information the federal government keeps on them.

The bill would also limit the dissemination of such information between federal agencies and require the agencies to disclose annually in the Federal Register the type of records they keep.

The bill was approved by the House Government Operations Committee 32 to 0. Chairman Chet Holifield (D-Calif.) indicated floor action may not come until after the November elections.

Any citizen would be entitled to see and copy informa-

tion on him in federal files except at such agencies as the CIA, FBI, and Secret Service.

Agencies would have either to comply with a citizen's request to correct his records or state the reasons for refusing and tell him how to get a review of those reasons.

If the agency still refused to make the change after a review, the citizen would be entitled to file a statement giving his side which would have to be shown to anyone looking at his file.

Congressional committees and subcommittees could request information from individuals' files for matters under their jurisdiction.